

CLAIMS

1. A tool, comprising:
a holder, having:
a receiving area for accepting a fastener in an insertion direction; and
a first notch transverse to said insertion direction, said notch in a sidewall of said holder and in communication with said receiving area; and
a retainer extending through said first notch and into said receiving area;
wherein said retainer deflects away from said receiving area during insertion of said fastener and provides a bias force to said fastener to retain the fastener within said holder.
2. The tool of claim 1, wherein said holder has a second notch through which said retainer extends.
3. The tool of claim 2, wherein said second notch is opposite said first notch.
4. The tool of claim 1, wherein said retainer comprises a split ring.
5. The tool of claim 1, wherein said retainer is a spring.
6. The tool of claim 1, wherein said receiving area has a depth and said first notch resides approximately at a midpoint of said depth.

7. The tool of claim 1, wherein said holder has an end that accepts said fastener and said retainer does not reside at said end.
8. A socket assembly, comprising
a socket, having:
a receiving area for accepting a fastener in an insertion direction;
and
a first notch in a sidewall transverse to said insertion direction, said first notch in communication with said receiving area; and
a retainer extending in said notch and through into said receiving area;
wherein said retainer deflects away from said receiving area during insertion of said fastener and provides a bias force to said fastener to retain said fastener within said holder.
9. The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said holder has a second notch through which said retainer extends.
10. The socket assembly of claim 9, wherein said second notch is opposite said first notch.
11. The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said retainer comprises a split ring.

12. The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said retainer is a spring.
13. The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said receiving area has a depth and said notch resides approximately at a midpoint of said depth.
14. The socket assembly of claim 8, wherein said holder has an end that accepts said fastener and said retainer does not reside at said end.
15. A retainer secured to a holder for preventing a fastener from departing said holder, comprising:
 - an arcuate medial section; and
 - a pair of arms extending from said medial section, each of said arms having a bent tip;
 - wherein said medial section and said tips conform to the shape of said holder.
16. The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer is generally planar.
17. The retainer of claim 15, wherein said arms are generally linear.
18. The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer is a split ring.

19. The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer is a spring.
20. The retainer of claim 15, wherein said retainer comprises wire.